



Letter No. 3639
Friday, October 21, 2011
Creative Media & Broadcast Center
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BROADCASTERS LETTER
#3639
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(October 20)

**KOREA, COLOMBIA AND PANAMA TRADE AGREEMENTS AND TRADE
ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE SIGNED INTO LAW**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made the following statement on President Obama's signing into law three trade agreements and workers' assistance expected to support tens-of-thousands of American jobs:

"Today, President Obama signed a major piece of his jobs agenda into law: new trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. These agreements will support tens of thousands of jobs here at home, put unemployed Americans back to work, and open new opportunities for American businesses. For America's farmers and ranchers, the trade agreements are an opportunity to strengthen U.S. agriculture, already a bright spot in our economy.

Farm exports help support more than 1 million American jobs. This year and next, U.S. agricultural exports are on track to reach new highs, leading to a trade surplus of over \$42 billion, eight times greater than five years ago. When implemented, these three agreements will increase farm exports by an additional \$2.3 billion—supporting nearly 20,000 American jobs—by eliminating tariffs, removing barriers to trade and leveling the playing field for U.S. producers.

"Overall, these agreements are a win for the American economy—they mean higher incomes for farmers and ranchers, more opportunities for small businesses owners, and jobs for folks who package, ship, and market agricultural products."

For Radio Story: [President Signs New Free Trade Agreements](#)
[ACTUALITY: How FTA's and More Exports Improve Income and Jobs](#)

MEXICAN TRUCKING DISPUTE OVER--PUNITIVE TARIFFS ALL GONE

With the U.S. issuing the first permits for Mexican trucks to operate in this country, Mexico has removed the remaining tariffs it imposed on U.S. products.

For Radio Story: [Mexican Trucking Dispute Over--Punitive Tariffs All Gone](#)

ONE MORE HURDLE CLEARED FOR RUSSIAN WTO ASCENSION

An agreement resolving bilateral issues between Russia and the European Union is the latest roadblock removed in Russia's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

For Radio Story: [One More Hurdle Cleared For Russian WTO Ascension](#)

NAL JOINS WORLDWIDESCIENCE WEB DATABASE

USDA's National Agricultural Library is partnership with US and world scientific organizations to provide data for a new Internet search engine. Eleanor Frierson of USDA's National Agricultural Library explains the purpose of this research and information based entity.

For Radio Story: [NAL Joins Worldwidescience Web Database](#)
[ACTUALITY: On National AG Library](#)

(October 19)

LAWMAKERS WORKING ON REDUCED USDA 2012 SPENDING BILL

How will budget cuts affect the operation of the Agriculture Department?

For Radio Story: [Lawmakers Working On Reduced USDA 2012 Spending Bill](#)

AGRICULTURE DEPUTY SECRETARY MERRIGAN LEADS U.S. DELEGATION TO 6TH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS

The meeting was the U.S. delegation to the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas in San José, Costa Rica. The theme of the ministerial was Innovation for Sustainable, Competitive and Inclusive Agriculture. "At this ministerial forum, agriculture officials from across the Western Hemisphere will discuss how innovation can make agriculture competitive, sustainable and inclusive," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "Whether investments are made on the farm, in the supply chain or at the market where the food is sold, they will contribute toward ensuring food security and addressing the challenges of climate change."

The ministerial meeting took place in conjunction with the biennial meeting of the IICA's highest governing body, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. IICA was founded in 1942, thanks to the vision of Henry Wallace, then the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and Ernesto Molestina, Director General of Agriculture of Ecuador. IICA's work helps promote stability in agriculture and trade among its 34 member countries and strengthens agricultural cooperation in the Western Hemisphere. For more information about the ministerial, visit <http://www.iica.int/Eng/ministros2011/Pages/default.aspx>.

Contact: USDA Office of Communication
For More Story Info: [Latest USDA News Releases](#)

SUPERMARKET FOOD PRICES RISING MORE THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED

The latest Consumer Price Index shows food prices rising a little more than many analysts expected.

For Radio Story: [Supermarket Food Prices Rising More Than Had Been Expected](#)

(October 18)

SEVERAL USDA STATISTICAL REPORTS ARE GETTING CUT OR CHANGED

How will budget cuts affect the amount and frequency of information coming out of the Department of Agriculture? Joe Prusacki, with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, giving a list of the USDA reports that will be cut or changed.

For Radio Story: [USDA Cutting Or Changing Several Statistical Reports](#)
[ACTUALITY: Official Lists Reports That Will Be Cut Or Changed](#)

TWO STORMS TO BRING MOISTURE TO EASTERN US

Two separate storm systems are expected to collide later this week to bring moisture to much of the East.

For Radio Story: [Two Storms To Bring Moisture To Eastern U.S.](#)

WESTERN U.S. WILL BE DRIER AND WARMER THAN NORMAL

In contrast to the wet East Coast, the West this week will be dry and warm.

For Radio Story: [Western U.S. Will Be Drier And Warmer Than Normal](#)

(October 17)

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK JOINS FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA TO SALUTE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE AWARD WINNERS

Schools meet First Lady's HealthierUS School Challenge goal for expanding nutrition and physical activity opportunities. The First Lady hosted a reception on the South Lawn to honor the 1,273 schools that met her goal to double the number of participants in the Challenge in a year. The Challenge recognizes schools that create healthier school environments by providing exceptional nutrition education, nutritious food and beverage choices, physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

"Educators see firsthand the impact that childhood obesity has on our children's lives -not just on their physical and emotional health, but on their academic success as well. That's why our nation's educators have been leaders in this movement to end the epidemic of childhood obesity in America," said First Lady Michelle Obama. "We're not just thanking these educators, but encouraging them to continue that leadership, to reach out and help other schools by sharing good ideas and best practices, and encouraging and inspiring each other. The HealthierUS Schools Competition is a competition every school in America can win. And when our schools win, our kids win and our country wins."

"Achieving the HealthierUS School Challenge recognition demonstrates a school's deep commitment to create and maintain a healthy school environment," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The schools we are recognizing today have already made great progress toward meeting the school meals improvements set forth in the [Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act](#) - and can serve as models for others seeking to make improvements. By providing access to nutritious foods and promoting physical activity in our schools, we can reinforce the healthy habits that many parents are already teaching at home and help our children reach their full potential."

The [HealthierUS School Challenge](#) is a key component of First Lady Michelle Obama's [Let's Move!](#) initiative to end childhood obesity within a generation. In February 2010, USDA and the First Lady called on stakeholders to double the number of Challenge schools - a goal reached in June 2011 - and add 1,000 schools per year for two years after that. [Click here](#) to view a full list of Challenge schools.

Contact: Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

For More Story Info: [Latest USDA News Releases](#)

For Radio Story: [Celebrating The Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Meeting Healthier Us Schools Challenge Goal](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Examples Of Healthier U.S. School Challenge Projects](#)

THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORT NUMBERS MAKE AN ABOUT FACE

The latest agricultural export numbers show a reversal in what had been a worrisome string of monthly export declines. Nora Brooks, USDA analyst, giving the latest numbers on U.S. agricultural imports. Brooks says that if the export numbers for September come in at August's number of \$10 billion, the total 2011 exports will come up to the forecast level of \$137 billion.

For Radio Story: [A Turnaround In The U.S. Agricultural Export Numbers](#)

[ACTUALITY: A Look At The Latest Ag. Import Numbers](#)

[ACTUALITY: Will 2011 Exports Meet The Forecast?](#)

For more agriculture news visit www.USDA.gov and click Newsroom on the toolbar.



[The Latest USDA Blog Posts](#)

Science Tuesday

White House Recognizes HealthierUS School Challenge Schools **(FNS)**

World Food Day event **(FAS)**

Helicopters give fish a better chance to spawn in Oregon **(FS)**

Feds Feed Families: Stories from the Field **(CFBNP)**

California tree to shine Christmas cheer on capitol

World Vet Year

US Forest Service team receives Gold Smokey Bear Award in Wisconsin **(FS)**

Going to the Source—FAS International Staff Experience U.S. Agriculture Firsthand **(FAS)**

Our National Security Depends on Feeding a Growing World **(FAS)**

Farmers Market Promotion Program Supports Diverse Needs in Upper Midwest States **(AMS)**

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

(Feature Line-Up Subject To Change Prior to Update On October 25)

AGRICULTURE USA CD # 43.11 – One of the key components of a new National Animal Disease Traceability program is a classic piece of animal identification. Rod Bain and Susan Carter looks at what this entails and how some are learning "ear tag 101" in this edition of "Agriculture USA".

CONSUMER TIME CD # 43.11 – One Challenge Met For US Healthier School Challenge. Creating Energy Efficient Jobs. Animal Identification Key To Food Safety. Simple Tips Could Save Several Dollars In Home Energy Costs. What To Know About Wood As A Heat Source.

AG UPDATE CD # 43.11 – USDA Cutting Some Statistical And Commodity Reports. Revisions To Chinese Corn Production. Looking Into Energy Price Impacts On Agriculture. Cuts In Peanut Acreage And Yields Are Causing A Peanut Shortage. Great Lakes Area Study Confirms That Agriculture Works.

UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE – October 25 – Crop Weather (WAOB). October 27 – Vegetables And Melons Outlook (ERS). October 31 – Agricultural Prices (NASS); Crop Progress Report (NASS). **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. The USDA Radio Newsline carries many stories every day that are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA Radio Newsline, 202-720-6776, 5:00pm ET

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Broadcasters if you have any humanitarian or community service events you'd like to share please forward to susan.carter@oc.usda.gov. We love to hear about what you're doing and share it with others in the farm broadcaster family.

From all of us to all of you ... thank you for what you do



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